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## INFORMATISECRETREPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Caucasus)

SUBJECT <sup>OF</sup> Installations at Lake Ritsa

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DATE DISTR. 27 August 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1 sketch  
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT  
REPORT NO.

1. Source claims that the work being carried out in the Lake Ritsa district (43° 28' N, 40° 32' E) has no relation to the work which is being completed in the Kelasuri region. Five thousand soldiers are working in the Lake Ritsa area. No civilian workers were observed.
2. Soldiers informed source that Lake Ritsa is between 160 and 180 meters deep. Drinking water is obtained from the lake. The shores of the lake are precipitous, and the water is deep even at the shore's edge. The surface of Lake Ritsa is approximately 2,000 meters above sea level.
3. The distance from Sukhumi to Lake Ritsa is 80 kilometers. The two-lane asphalt highway between the two places is in very good condition. To reach Lake Ritsa from Sukhumi, one follows the road from Sukhumi to Bzyb, a distance of forty kilometers, to where the road forks. Comment: Bzyb is probably synonymous with Kaldakhlara, 43° 14' N, 40° 24' E.) The fork to the north leads to a bridge over the Bzyb River. Lake Ritsa is approximately forty kilometers beyond the Bzyb bridge.
4. In the course of the drive from Bzyb to Lake Ritsa on 1 May 1947, source observed that a ditch about 40 cm. deep was dug along the left-hand side of the road for most of the distance. A wire cable similar to a telephone cable was laid in the ditch. Source heard that this cable afforded Lake Ritsa direct telephone communication with Moscow. Halfway between Bzyb and Lake Ritsa there is a small lake to the left of the road.
5. A road which was to circle the shores of Lake Ritsa was still under construction on 1 May 1947, although the section along the eastern side of the lake was almost completed by that date. The two-lane highway was to be paved with asphalt. Source did not know the condition of the road on the northern and western sides of the lake, but observed that the road ran from two to four meters from the water's edge. Along most of the road there is a sheer drop from the shoulder to the water.
6. Source observed only military vehicles during his visit to Lake Ritsa. On 1 May 1947 he noted 10 to 15 Soviet Army trucks in a wooded area near the lake and witnessed the arrival of a military truck loaded with drums of turpentine.

## CLASSIFICATION

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He saw no other concentrations of material or personnel and observed no other construction projects.

7. Explanation of numbered points on the attached sketch of the Lake Ritsa district:

- #1: Three- or four-story building constructed entirely of wood. It is supported in large part on iron pilings set in Lake Ritsa. The building is approximately 20 meters long and 8 meters wide, with a height of 12 to 15 meters. A soldier stated that the building was to be made into a sanatorium.
- #2: Wooden building housing generator probably powered by a 40 to 50 horsepower engine. Source saw several empty turpentine barrels lying outside the building. The generator supplies current to the various buildings in the vicinity.
- #3: Temporary floating landing made of wood. The landing measures six by eight meters. Source saw six to eight small motorboats which were powered by automobile engines.
- #4, #5, #9, #10: Sheds used as barracks.
- #6: Landing similar to #3 in construction and dimensions, but moored with the long axis projecting into the lake.
- #7: One-story wooden building with a conical roof. It is used by Stalin as a country lodge. A concrete stairway leads from the entrance of the house to the lake, where Stalin bathes.
- #8: Wooden building housing an electric generator with a greater capacity than the one at point #2. Source observed that the generator at #8 was used only at night. He does not know whether the electric current is used for anything other than the lighting of the buildings.
- #11: Military camp with sheds for barracks.
- #12: Club.

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( Comment: For previous reports on work being conducted at Sukdani, Kelasuri, and Lake Ritsa,  For a report on rail facilities in the area and the bridge at Bzyb, see .)

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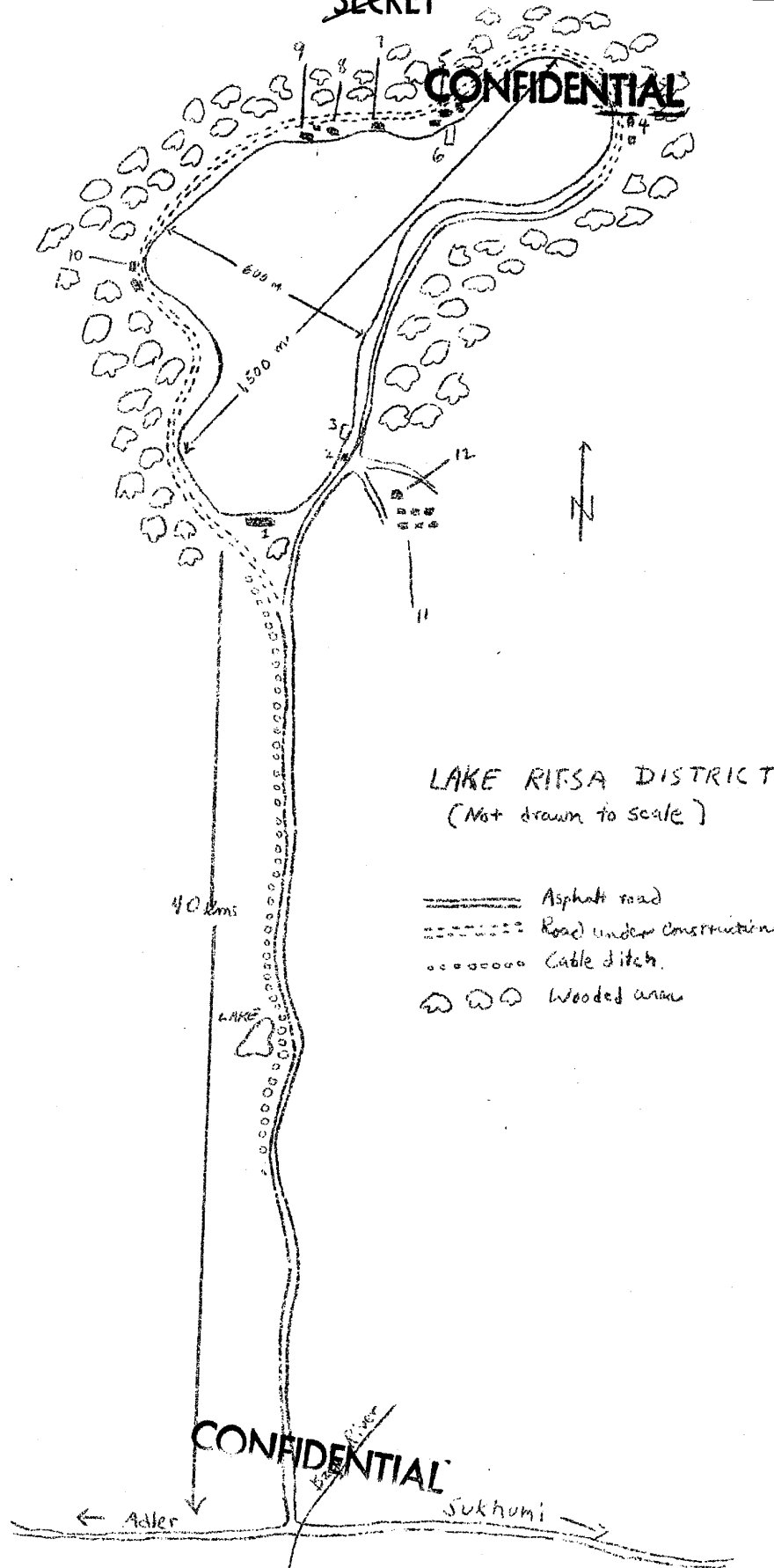
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